

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5        1. A gaming device system comprising:  
            a plurality of gaming devices arranged in a bank;  
            a bank hub operatively connected to each of said gaming devices in the bank  
for receiving data from each of said gaming devices;  
            a system hub operatively connected to said bank hub for receiving data from  
10     the bank hub; and  
            a tracking device operatively connected to said system hub for receiving data  
from the system hub, thereby collecting data from said gaming devices.
- 15        2. A system as set forth in claim 1 wherein said bank and system hubs  
comprise ethernet-compatible hubs.
- 20        3. A system as set forth in claim 1 further comprising:  
            a insulation displacement connector operatively connected to said bank hub  
for receiving data from said bank hub; and  
            a patch panel operatively connected to said insulation displacement connector  
for receiving data from said insulation displacement connector and transmitting said  
data to said system hub.
- 25        4. A system as set forth in claim 3 further comprising a system level patch  
cord connecting said patch panel to said system hub.
- 30        5. A system as set forth in claim 4 wherein said system level patch cord  
comprises a category-5-compatible modular connector patch cord.
- 35        6. A system as set forth in claim 3 further comprising an unshielded twisted  
pair cable connecting said bank hub to said insulation displacement connector.
- 40        7. A system as set forth in claim 6 wherein said unshielded twisted pair cable  
comprises a 4 pair category-5-compatible cable.

8. A system as set forth in claim 6 wherein:  
said insulation displacement connector includes a plurality of wire receptors;  
and  
5        said unshielded twisted pair cable comprises a plurality of wires, each of said wires extending from a hub end to a system end opposite said hub end, each of said system ends being connected to at least one of said wire receptors of said insulation displacement connector.
- 10      9. A system as set forth in claim 8 wherein the hub end of at least one of said wires is connected to an RJ-45 category-5-compatible modular connector.
- 15      10. A system as set forth in claim 8 wherein said patch panel has a plurality of modular panel connectors and at least a portion of said insulation displacement connector wire receptors are cross-connected to at least a portion of said modular panel connectors.
- 20      11. A system as set forth in claim 3 further comprising a plurality of bank level patch cords, each of said cords connecting at least one of said plurality of gaming devices to said bank hub.
- 25      12. A system as set forth in claim 11 wherein each of said bank level patch cords comprises a category-5-compatible modular connector patch cord.
- 30      13. A system as set forth in claim 1 wherein:  
said plurality of gaming devices arranged in the bank are a first plurality of gaming devices arranged in a first bank;  
said bank hub is a first bank hub;  
said system further comprises:  
a second plurality of gaming devices arranged in a second bank; and  
a second bank hub operatively connected to each of said gaming devices in said second bank for receiving data from each of said gaming devices; and

the system hub is operatively connected to said second bank hub for receiving data from the second bank hub.

14. A gaming device system comprising:
- 5        a first plurality of gaming devices arranged in a first bank;
- a second plurality of gaming devices arranged in a second bank;
- a first bank hub operatively connected to each of said gaming devices in said first bank for receiving data from each of said first plurality of gaming devices;
- a second bank hub operatively connected to each of said gaming devices in
- 10      said second bank for receiving data from each of said second plurality of gaming devices;
- a system hub operatively connected to each of said first and second bank hubs for receiving data from said first and second bank hubs; and
- a tracking device operatively connected to said system hub for receiving data
- 15      from the system hub, thereby collecting data from said first and second pluralities of gaming devices.
15. A system as set forth in claim 14 wherein said first and second bank hubs and said system hub comprise ethernet-compatible hubs.
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16. A system as set forth in claim 14 further comprising:
- a insulation displacement connector operatively connected to said first and second bank hubs for receiving data from each of said first and second bank hubs;
- and
- 25      a patch panel operatively connected to said insulation displacement connector for receiving data from said insulation displacement connector and transmitting said data to said system hub.
17. A system as set forth in claim 16 further comprising a system level patch
- 30      cord connecting said patch panel to said system hub.
18. A system as set forth in claim 17 wherein said system level patch cord comprises a category-5-compatible modular connector patch cord.

19. A system set forth in claim 16 further comprising an unshielded twisted pair cable connecting said first and second bank hubs to said insulation displacement connector.

5        20. A system as set forth in claim 19 wherein said unshielded twisted pair cable comprises a 4 pair category-5-compatible cable.

21. A system as set forth in claim 19 wherein:  
said insulation displacement connector includes a plurality of wire receptors;  
10 and  
said unshielded twisted pair cable comprises a plurality of wires, each of said wires extending from a hub end to a system end opposite said hub end each of said system ends being connected to at least one of said wire receptors of said insulation displacement connector.

15        22. A system as set forth in claim 21 wherein the hub end of at least one of said wires is connected to an RJ-45 category-5-compatible modular connector.

23. A system as set forth in claim 22 wherein said RJ-45 category-5-compatible modular connector is a first RJ-45 category-5-compatible modular connector operatively connected to said first bank hub; and said system further comprises a second RJ-45 category-5-compatible modular connector operatively connected to said first RJ-45 category-5-compatible modular connector and to said second bank hub.

25        24. A system as set forth in claim 23 further comprising an interbank unshielded twisted pair cable connecting said first and second RJ-45 category-5-compatible modular connectors.

30        25. A system as set forth in claim 24 wherein said interbank unshielded twisted pair cable comprises a 4 pair category-5-compatible cable.

26. A system as set forth in claim 21 wherein said patch panel has a plurality of modular connectors and at least a portion of said insulation displacement

connector wire receptors are cross-connected to at least a portion of said patch panel connectors.

27. A system as set forth in claim 16 further comprising:

5        a first plurality of device patch cords, each of said first plurality of patch cords connecting at least one of said first plurality of gaming devices to said first bank hub; and

10      a second plurality of device patch cords, each of said second plurality of patch cords connecting as least one of said second plurality of gaming devices to said second bank hub.

28. A gaming device system comprising:

a plurality of gaming devices arranged in a bank and connected in series;

a separately monitored gaming device capable of transmitting data;

15      an insulation displacement connector operatively connected to each of said plurality of gaming devices in said bank and to said separately monitored gaming device for receiving data from said plurality of gaming devices and said separately monitored gaming device;

a patch panel operatively connected to said insulation displacement connector

20      for receiving data from said insulation displacement connector;

      a plurality of data collection devices operatively connected to said patch panel for receiving data from said plurality of gaming devices and said separately monitored gaming device; and

      a tracking device operatively connected to each of said plurality of data

25      collection devices for receiving data from the data collection devices, thereby collecting data from said plurality of gaming devices and said separately monitored gaming device.

29. A system as set forth in claim 28 further comprising a plurality of system

30      level patch cords, each of said plurality of system level patch cords connecting said patch panel with at least one of said plurality of data collection devices.

30. A system as set forth in claim 29 wherein each of said plurality of system level patch cords comprises a category-5-compatible connector patch cord.

31. A system as set forth in claim 30 further comprising an unshielded twisted pair cable connecting said plurality of gaming devices and said separately monitored gaming device to said insulation displacement connector.

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32. A system as set forth in claim 31 wherein said unshielded twisted pair cable comprises a 4 pair category-5-compatible cable.

33. A system as set forth in claim 31 wherein:  
10       said insulation displacement connector has a plurality of wire receptors;  
          said unshielded twisted pair cable comprises a plurality of wires, each of said wires extending from a device end to a system end opposite said device end; and  
          the system end of each of said wires is connected to at least one of said wire receptors of said insulation displacement connector.

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34. A system as set forth in claim 33 wherein the device end of at least one of said wire pairs is connected to an RJ 45 category-5-compatible modular connector.

35. A system as set forth in claim 33 wherein said patch panel has a plurality  
20       of modular panel connectors and at least a portion of said insulation displacement connector wire receptors are cross-connected to at least a portion of said modular panel connectors.

36. A system as set forth in claim 35 wherein each wire receptors of said  
25       insulation displacement connector is connected to a corresponding modular panel connector of said patch panel.

37. A system as set forth in claim 33 further comprising:  
          an RJ 45 category-5-compatible module connector, the device ends of each  
30       of said wires being connected to said RJ 45 connector.

38. A system as set forth in claim 37 further comprising an adapter connected to the RJ 45 connector for connecting the plurality of gaming devices and said separately monitored gaming device to the RJ 45 connector.

39. A method for converting a gaming device system including a bank of gaming devices connected to a modular connector, an insulation displacement connector having a plurality of pairs of wire receptors connected to said modular connector, a patch panel connected to at least one of said pairs of wire receptors, a collection device operatively connected to said patch panel, and a tracking device operatively connected to said collection device, said method comprising:

- 5 disconnecting said bank of gaming devices from said modular connector;  
10 connecting the modular connector to a bank hub connected to at least one gaming device;  
cross-connecting each of said pairs of wire receptors of said insulation displacement connector to said patch panel;  
connecting said patch panel to a system hub; and  
connecting said system hub to said tracking device.

15 40. A method as set forth in claim 39 wherein said bank and system hubs comprise ethernet-compatible hubs.

41. A method for converting a gaming device system including a plurality of 20 banks of gaming devices connected to a plurality of modular connectors, an insulation displacement connector having a plurality of pairs of wire receptors connected to said plurality of modular connectors, a patch panel connected to at least one of said pairs of wire receptors, a collection device operatively connected to said patch panel, and a tracking device operatively connected to said collection 25 device, said method comprising:

- disconnecting each of said plurality of banks of gaming devices from said plurality of modular connectors;  
connecting at least one of said plurality of modular connectors to a bank hub connected to at least one gaming device;  
30 cross-connecting each of said pairs of wire receptors of said insulation displacement connector to said patch panel;  
connecting said patch panel to a system hub; and  
connecting said system hub to said tracking device.

42. A method as set forth in claim 41 wherein said bank and system hubs comprise ethernet-compatible hubs.

43. A method for converting a gaming device system including a bank of 5 gaming devices connected to a modular connector, an insulation displacement connector connected to said modular connector, said insulation displacement connector having a plurality of pairs of wire receptors, a patch panel including a plurality of panel connectors, at least one of said panel connectors connected to at least one of said pairs of wire receptors, a collection device operatively connected to 10 said patch panel, and a tracking device operatively connected to said collection device, said method comprising:

disconnecting said bank of gaming devices from said modular connector;  
connecting a modular adapter to said modular connector, said modular adapter having a plurality of connectors;

15 connecting said bank of gaming devices to one of said plurality of connectors of said adapter;

connecting a separately monitored gaming device to another of said plurality of connectors of said adapter;

20 connecting said panel connectors to said pairs of wire receptors of said insulation displacement connector so that said bank of gaming devices and said separately monitored gaming device are in communication with separate panel connectors;

25 connecting a plurality of collection devices to said panel connectors so that said bank of gaming devices and said separately monitored gaming device are in communication with separate collection devices; and  
connecting each of said collection devices to a tracking device.

44. A method as set forth in claim 43 further comprising:

30 connecting at least one of a plurality of pairs of wire receptor of another insulation displacement connector to at least one of said panel connectors of said patch panel, said another insulation displacement connector being operatively connected to another bank of gaming devices; and

connecting a plurality of collection devices to said panel connectors so that each of said banks of gaming devices and said separately monitored gaming device are in communication with separate collection devices; and  
connecting each of said collection devices to said tracking device.

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45. A method as set forth in claim 44 wherein said another insulation displacement connector is operatively connected to a bank hub, said bank hub being operatively connected to at least one gaming device, said method further comprising:

10 connecting each of said plurality of pairs of wire receptors of said another insulation displacement connector to one of said panel connectors of said patch panel;

connecting a system hub to said panel connector so that said system hub is in communication with said bank hub; and

connecting said system hub to said tracking device.

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46. A method as set forth in claim 45 wherein said bank and system hubs comprise ethernet-compatible hubs.

20 47. A method of changing devices in a gaming device system including a bank hub having a plurality of gaming device jacks, a plurality of gaming devices connected to said device jacks of said bank hub, said bank hub being in communication with a tracking device, said method comprising:

25 disconnecting at least one of said gaming devices from said plurality of gaming device jacks thereby allowing the other of said plurality of gaming devices to be connected to said bank hub.